

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI VOTES TO DENY APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TERMINAL

Cites concerns over environmental impact and questionable need for project.

OXNARD - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi released the following statement:

Over the past few months, the other members of the California State Lands Commission and I have studied hundreds of pages of documents regarding the 'Cabrillo Port' proposal by BHP Billiton, which would place a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the coast of Southern California. Today, we heard the people speak about this proposal.

During hours of extensive testimony, we received valuable information from State Lands Commission staff, Cabrillo Port's proponents and their numerous consultants, as well as from opponents of the project. The testimony covered a wide range of issues, beginning with the terminal's potential impact on the air quality of the region, to how it might affect the area's workforce and the lives of local residents.

Despite the hours of testimony and the voluminous materials we reviewed, serious questions remain about the project's safety and its potential impact on the environment. The final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is key to our decision making process, fails to adequately address numerous areas of concern. The EIR demonstrates a glaring lack of consideration given to the use of alternative energy sources, and it relies in part on what appear to be outdated statistics. Most disturbing, the proponents were unable to present a persuasive case as to the actual need for the Cabrillo Port proposal.

Therefore, after careful consideration, I have determined that my no vote for certification of the final EIR, and denial of the lease permit for the project, is in the best interests of the people of California. Simply put, the significant unmitigatable environmental impacts this project could have on California's environment and its residents outweigh any economic benefit it might generate. Commission member and State Controller John Chiang also voted against the proposal, while Anne Sheehan, representing Governor Schwarzenegger, voted for approval.

In today's world there are many compelling reasons to support the acquisition of numerous and

plentiful energy sources for California. Global warming has forced us to rethink our energy choices to reduce the emission of harmful greenhouse gases. Our national security remains compromised by our country's overdependence on foreign energy sources, often obtained from some of the riskiest places on earth. However, no project should be built at the expense of our environment and our quality of life, and no project that is vague on critical safety issues should be approved. As your Lieutenant Governor and as the Chairman of the State Lands Commission, I will continue to hold each issue before this panel to those same high standards.

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